

Cárdenas (Gomez)
Carter (TX) (Calvert)
Cohen (Beyer)
DeFazio (Davids) (KS)
Fudge (Kaptur)
Grijalva (Garcia) (IL)
Haaland (Davids) (KS)
Hastings (Wasserman Schultz)
Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kirkpatrick (Stanton)
Langevin (Lynch)

Lawson (FL) (Evans)
Lee (NV) (Kuster)
Lieu (Beyer)
Lofgren (Jeffries)
Lowenthal (Beyer)
McEachin (Wexton)
McHenry (Banks)
Meng (Clark) (MA)
Moore (WI) (Beyer)
Morelle (Tonko)
Moulton (Rice) (NY)
Napolitano (Correa)

Payne (Wasserman Schultz)
Pingree (Kuster)
Porter (Wexton)
Roybal-Allard (Leger Fernandez)
Ruiz (Aguliar)
Rush (Underwood)
Steube (Franklin, C. Scott)
Strickland (DelBene)
Thompson (MS) (Butterfield)
Watson Coleman (Pallone)
Wilson (FL) (Hayes)

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS VETERANS' AND CAREGIVERS' COVID-19 IMMUNIZATIONS NOW EXPANDED ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be discharged from further consideration of the bill (H.R. 1276) to authorize the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to furnish COVID-19 vaccines to certain individuals, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1276

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans' and Caregivers' COVID-19 Immunizations Now Expanded Act of 2021" or the "VA VACCINE Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINES TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to a covered individual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(b) VACCINES FURNISHED ABROAD.—In the case of an individual who is a covered individual by reason of subsection (d)(1)(B), the Secretary may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to such individual under subsection (a) regardless of whether the Secretary determines that such vaccine is needed for the treatment of a service-connected disability of the veteran or as part of a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) ENROLLED VETERAN PRIORITY.—In furnishing COVID-19 vaccines, the Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, over the vaccination of covered individuals under this section; and

(2) only furnish such vaccines to covered individuals under this section to the extent that such vaccines are available.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "covered individual" means any of the following:

(A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) A veteran who is eligible for care under section 1724 of such title.

(C) A family caregiver of an eligible veteran participating in the program of comprehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of such title.

(D) A caregiver of a covered veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of such title.

(E) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(2) The term "COVID-19" means the coronavirus disease 2019.

(3) The term "COVID-19 public health emergency" means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 27, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. TAKANO

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Strike all after section 1 and insert the following:

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY OF SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS TO FURNISH COVID-19 VACCINES TO CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine to a covered individual during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

(b) VACCINES FURNISHED ABROAD.—In the case of an individual who is a covered individual by reason of subsection (d)(2)(B), the Secretary may furnish a COVID-19 vaccine, in a geographic location other than a State, to such individual under subsection (a) regardless of whether the Secretary determines that such vaccine is needed for the treatment of a service-connected disability of the veteran or as part of a rehabilitation program under chapter 31 of title 38, United States Code.

(c) VETERAN AND ACCOMPANYING CAREGIVER PRIORITY.—In furnishing COVID-19 vaccines, the Secretary shall—

(1) prioritize the vaccination of veterans who are enrolled in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code, veterans who fail to so enroll but receive hospital care and medical services pursuant to subsection (c)(2) of such section, and accompanying caregivers over the vaccination of covered individuals under this section not otherwise described in this paragraph; and

(2) only furnish such vaccines to covered individuals under this section to the extent that such vaccines are available.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) The term "accompanying caregiver" means a caregiver described in subparagraph (C), (D), or (E) of paragraph (2) who is accompanying a veteran as described in subsection (c)(1).

(2) The term "covered individual" means any of the following:

(A) A veteran who is not eligible to enroll in the patient enrollment system of the Department of Veterans Affairs under section 1705 of title 38, United States Code.

(B) A veteran who is eligible for care under section 1724 of such title.

(C) A family caregiver who is approved as a provider of personal care services for an eligible veteran under the program of com-

prehensive assistance for family caregivers under section 1720G(a) of such title.

(D) A caregiver of a covered veteran participating in the program of general caregiver support services under section 1720G(b) of such title.

(E) A caregiver of a veteran participating in the Medical Foster Home Program, Bowel and Bladder Program, Home Based Primary Care Program, or Veteran Directed Care Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(3) The term "COVID-19" means the Coronavirus disease 2019.

(4) The term "COVID-19 public health emergency" means the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services on January 27, 2020, with respect to the coronavirus disease 2019.

(5) The term "State" has the meaning given that term section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

Mr. TAKANO (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading of the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

The amendment was agreed to.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CLIMATE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JONES). The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment pursuant to section 4(d) of House Resolution 8, 117th Congress, as amended by section 18 of House Resolution 188, 117th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Members to the Select Committee on the Climate Crisis:

Mr. PALMER, Alabama
Mr. CARTER, Georgia
Mrs. MILLER, West Virginia
Mr. ARMSTRONG, North Dakota
Mr. CRENSHAW, Texas
Mr. GONZALEZ, Ohio

TEXANS NEED TO DO WHAT IS RIGHT TO SAVE LIVES

(Ms. JACKSON LEE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, over 500,000 dead; 44,000 or more dead in the State of Texas.

The State of Texas, throughout the entire pandemic, remained one of the top hot spots of the Nation. They started testing late. We started vaccines and still have not reached a certain percentage, but yet, tomorrow, on March 10, 2021, our Governor has announced that there will be no mask mandate, and there will be no restrictions on any form of entertainment, restaurants, any large gatherings.

Tomorrow, March 10, the people of Texas get a death notice. I am asking my friends in Texas to wear your masks, socially distance, wash your